

Hello Mr. Newton,

I am writing to comment on the proposed new MS4 permit in New Hampshire. I am executive Director of the Ipswich River Watershed Association in Massachusetts. We also manage the Parker – Ipswich – Essex Rivers Restoration Partnership which is a coalition of the 3 coastal watersheds in the Northeast corner of Massachusetts near New Hampshire. We feel the next phase of stormwater permitting as proposed is DESPERATELY needed and strongly encourage you to adopt the proposal. While we recognize the potential hardship this will place on municipalities, it needs to be understood that stormwater discharges which they manage are already in violation of federal and state water quality regulations and the new regulations are designed to reasonably address the devastating impact of stormwater on our waterways. As you are well aware, stormwater is by far the largest source of water pollution today and the time has (finally) come for society to both recognize and address the issue. Although we are located in Massachusetts, we are impacted by stormwater emanating from New Hampshire as many watersheds cross boundaries. As importantly, we feel what happens with the New Hampshire permit will directly impact the proposed permit for Massachusetts so we really need the New Hampshire Permit to be as strong as possible. In sum, we strongly support adoption of the MS4 permit as proposed and encourage you to resist any efforts to weaken it.

Sincerely,



Wayne Castonguay
Executive Director



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